FAMILY VIOLENCE INITIATIVES

1990/91

Yukon
Government

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FAMILY VIOLENCE INITIATIVES 1990/91

If you have any comments or questions about the family violence policy or the 1990/91 plan of action, please contact:

Interdepartmental Working Group on Family Violence
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Yukon Government
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During the 1989 election campaign, the Yukon government promised to introduce new programs and services aimed at reducing the incidence of family violence in the territory.

Some of the programs promised included a safe places program for battered women and their children; an information telephone line for victims of family violence and sexual assault; and a government-wide public awareness campaign.

The Safe Places Program was announced in June 1989. It provides start-up and operating grants to groups offering safety and support to battered women in their own communities. In January 1990, the government launched a new treatment program for abused children. In February, the Family Violence Prevention Unit moved to a new "client-friendly" location. In April, the new logo for the public awareness campaign was released. The toll-free information line started up in May.

Attached is a chart of the 1990/91 initiatives to address family violence. The initiatives listed are part of a multi-year plan involving several government departments and co-ordinated by a committee representing the Women's Directorate and the Departments of Health and Human Resources, Education and Justice.

The 1990/91 initiatives addressing family violence are being released in conjunction with a government-wide policy on family violence.

The Yukon Government is one of the first provincial /territorial jurisdictions in Canada to develop a comprehensive written policy on family violence. However the content of this policy is not completely new. It reflects the underlying philosophy of current and previous programming and is based on the social policies of the government.

The written policy reinforces the development of a consistent, co-ordinated government response to family violence.

Reducing the incidence of family violence is one of the Yukon government's priorities. Together, the new initiatives and supporting policy take us one step closer to that goal.

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1990/91 FAMILY VIOLENCE INITIATIVES
Health and Human Resources

INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ACTION	TIMELINE
1. ***Safe Places Program***	Capital and operating funding for safe places for battered women.	Ongoing. Program announced in June 1989.	Program officer assist community groups with safe place needs.	Ongoing
			Dawson Shelter evaluation.	1990/91
			Target Watson Lake for start-up of shelter.	1990/91
			Kaushee's relocation.	1990/91
			Develop and implement portions of training component.	1990/91
			Review program.	June 1990
2. ***Child Abuse Treatment Groups***	Support/treatment groups for sexually abused children run by trained, experienced facilitators.	Ongoing. Program started in January 1990.	Four eight-week childrens' groups operating in Whitehorse three times per year.	1990/91
			Non-offending parents' group.	1990/91
			Outreach to targeted communities.	1990/91
3. ***Protocols***	Protocols for reporting and investigation of child abuse.	Ongoing.	Interagency protocols on investigation (RCMP, Health and Human Resources, Crown Attorney, Medical Association). Sign-off.	1990/91

1990/91 FAMILY VIOLENCE INITIATIVES
Health and Human Resources continued

INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ACTION	TIMELINE
			Update reporting protocol between Health and Human Resources and Education.	1990/91
			Develop and implement training plan for all protocols.	1990/91 1991/92
			Interagency protocols on reporting.	1991/92
4. ***Children's Act Amendments***	Proposed amendments will include mandatory reporting of child abuse.	New.	Research and consultation on amendments.	1990/91
			Table amendments to Children's Act, including mandatory reporting.	1991
5. ***Training***	In-service training sessions for child protection workers.	Ongoing.	Implement sessions (3).	1990/91
	Interagency training on child abuse investigation.	First session in March 1990.	Hold training sessions with RCMP.	1990/91
6. ***Itinerant Counselling***	Family counselling services to Watson Lake, Faro and Dawson City twice a month.	New (starting January 1990).	Yukon Family Services contracted to deliver service.	1990/91
			Evaluate after one year.	January 1991
7. ***Guardianship Act***	Draft act (Justice in consultation with Health and Human Resources).	New.	Draft and table act.	1990/91
			Implementation.	1991/92

1990/91 FAMILY VIOLENCE INITIATIVES
Health and Human Resources continued

INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ACTION	TIMELINE
8. Youth Programs	Treatment programs for offenders and preventive programs for youth.	Ongoing.	Deliver sex offender treatment program, anger management group and teen support group.	1990/91
9. Coordination	Promote coordination of services within department, government and community.	Ongoing.	Send departmental update of family violence initiatives to all staff twice a year.	1990/91
			Continue regular meetings of Health and Human Resources Family Violence Committee and expand to include relevant supervisors on quarterly basis.	1990/91
			Participate on Interdepartmental Working Group on Family Violence and promote joint planning and problem solving.	1990/91

1990/91 FAMILY VIOLENCE INITIATIVES
Education

INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ACTION	TIMELINE
1. ***Skills for Adolescents***	Course for pre-teens and teens at the grades 5-9 level.	Ongoing.	Provides adolescents with coping skills.	Ongoing.
2. ***Quest***	Program designed by Lions' Club for Canadian junior high students.	Pilot Project at CKHS.	Deals with alcohol/drug related problems faced by adolescents.	1989/90
3. ***CARE***	Program offered to primary students.	Ongoing in most Yukon elementary schools. Piloted during the 89/90 school year.	Makes very young children aware of inappropriate behaviour and how they should deal with it.	Ongoing.
4. ***Magic Circle***	An interpersonal communications program for primary children.	Ongoing in several Yukon elementary schools.	Helps children discuss their problems.	Ongoing.
5. ***Family Life Education***	An extensive counselling life skills program at senior secondary level offered in conjunction with Health and Human Resources.	Ongoing in all Yukon grade 10, 11 and 12 classes.	Provides students with a variety of life skills as they enter adulthood.	Ongoing.

1990/91 FAMILY VIOLENCE INITIATIVES
Justice

INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ACTION	TIMELINE
1. ***Youth Groups***	Establish a support group for teenage girls who are vulnerable to being abused by their male partners.	New.	In conjunction with Juvenile Justice, solicit referrals and establish group.	1990/91
	Provide information for youth on relationships and non-abusive behaviour.	New.	Coordinate services with other agencies who may be able to deliver sessions.	March 1991
2. ***Public Awareness***	Deliver series of public presentations on areas related to family violence.	New.	Present subject in conjunction with another agency.	October 1990
	Publish pamphlets on FVPU services & information regarding family violence.	New.	Write and print pamphlets.	April 1990
	Establish a resource library of information related to family violence.	New.	Gather resources and be aware of materials existing in other libraries.	July 1990
3. ***Manuals***	Develop a policy & procedures for FVPU.	Project began winter 1989.	Compile administrative and client policy information.	November 1990
	Develop handbooks on modules used in the Women's Support Group, Assaultive Husbands Intervention Program, and Sex Offenders Treatment Program.	New.	Compile and print hand books.	1990/91
4. ***Community Outreach***	Meet with Interagency committees in all Yukon communities.	New.	Travel to all communities to meet with interagency committees.	1990/91

1990/91 FAMILY VIOLENCE INITIATIVES
Justice continued

INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ACTION	TIMELINE
	Deliver workshops on family violence on request.	Ongoing.	Deliver workshops in various communities on request.	1990/91
5. ***Information Line***	Establish a family violence and sexual assault information line. Six-month pilot project delivered during working hours by FVPU.	New, funding through Women's Directorate.	FVPU coordinate training and case conferencing. Start up.	1990/91 May 1990
6. ***Sexual Offender Review Committee***	Review existing programs and identify gaps in service for treatment of sex offenders.	Began in winter 1989. Ongoing.	Regular meetings to review sex offender treatment issues and develop a holistic community approach to the problem.	December 1990
7. ***Training***	Monthly training sessions in the area of family violence for professionals and lay-counsellors.	New.	Establish monthly training sessions for exchange of information.	September 1990
8. ***Support for Families***	Develop groups and/or strategies, in conjunction with other departments and agencies, to ensure the coordination of services for families affected by sexual, physical or emotional abuse.	New.	Liaise with other agencies to determine needs and develop strategies.	1990/91
9. ***Victims' Groups***	Establish a support group for male survivors of sexual abuse.	New, in conjunction with Mental Health Services.	Determine need, ensure training, and establish groups.	March 1991

INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ACTION	TIMELINE
	Women's support groups for battered women.	Ongoing.	Ongoing—10 week sessions.	1990/91
10. Offenders' Groups	Assaultive Husbands treatment group.	Ongoing.	Continue with regular groups of 16 to 20 sessions.	1990/91
	Assaultive Husbands Phase II group.	Ongoing.	Continue Phase II group and correspondence with men eligible for Phase II.	1990/91
	Sex Offenders treatment program.	Ongoing, in conjunction with Mental Health Services.	Continue group and ensure that any new facilitators are trained.	1990/91
11. Victim/Witness Coordinator	Support, Court Orientation for victims of spousal assault.	Ongoing.	Provide service for women who have to appear in Court.	1990/91
12. Victim/Witness Services	Expand support services to Yukon communities.	New, funding through Court Services.		1990/91
13. Video	"Victims of Crime".	New.	For distribution within Yukon.	April 1990

1990/91 FAMILY VIOLENCE INITIATIVES
Women's Directorate

INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ACTION	TIMELINE
1. ***1-800 Information Line***	Service to victims of sexual assault and family violence.	New service was operational by May 1, 1990, funded by Women's Directorate.	Provide on-going training to staff who will be answering the calls. Assess service on a regular basis.	1990/91
			Provide an advertising campaign and on-going ads re: new service.	1990/91
2. ***Yukon Directory of Services***	A listing and description of all government and non-government organizations, agencies and services in the area of family violence.	New. Pre-printed version of the directory was distributed at the Family Violence Conference, held in April, 1990.	Printed version of directory is being distributed to "helpers" throughout the territory.	July 1990
			Distribute territory-wide.	Fall 1990
3. ***"How to set up a self-help group" handbook***	A step-by-step handbook on establishing support and self-help groups for rural communities.	New.	Produce handbook and distribute territory-wide.	1990/91
4. ***Public Awareness Campaign***	Preventive approach to reduce family violence.	Ongoing.	Produce radiospots and print ads, to begin running the end of September, 1990.	1990/91
5. ***Community newsletter on family violence***	Communication and networking among rural communities to better address the problem.	First issue was produced and distributed in July, 1990 (Idea was brought up at the Family Violence Conference, April, 1990.)	Assist Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues in production of quarterly newsletter.	1990/91

INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ACTION	TIMELINE
6. ***Interdepartmental Working Group on Family Violence.***	Meets monthly with additional meetings, as required. Sponsored Family Violence Conference in April. Developed policy on family violence.	Ongoing, chaired by Women's Directorate.	Ongoing, coordination and improved communication.	1990/91

1990/91 FAMILY VIOLENCE INITIATIVES
(W.C.B.) Victims of Crime Compensation Board

INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ACTION	TIMELINE
1. ***Host International Victim Crime Conference—Whitehorse, May 1991***	Conference theme "Violence within the Family". Members of the International Association include all provinces and territories within Canada, 50 American states, New Zealand, Australia, and 26 Countries in Europe, Asia, Central America, West Indies and Africa. The purpose of the Conference is to exchange information, find solutions to problems and to develop new ways of improving present programs. Conference topics will examine the needs of victims in cross-cultural environments.		Set conference agenda after meeting with the Executive of the International Association of Victim Crime Boards, May 1990. Meet with Canadian National Association of Victim Crime Boards, June 1990. Consult with Justice, Health and Human Resources and similar organizations who are presently dealing with family violence programs.	1991
2. ***Review of Victim of Crime Act***	Review Act in light of experience in field of Victim of Crime, in particular, the example set by P.E.I. in their new model V/C Legislation.		Conduct public consultation process with emphasis on interviews with victims.	1991